

# The Ball Pit

**Southern Fried  
Chicken Recipe:  
More Than Just  
a Recipe**

**Poaching  
for the  
Perfect  
Professor**

**The site to  
improve your  
college life.**

**Maced!**

**A young  
woman in  
search of  
perfume...**

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Teaching for the  
Perfect Professor  
101

## A professor has a significant affect on your education. But how can you know which professors are good or bad?

### RateMyProfessors.com

For some students, finding a good professor has made all the difference in their academic progress as well as their sanity during long lectures. Current BYU-I student Abbey Belliston says, "I have had some of the best professors because of ratemyprofessors.com. And occasionally I still have to go with a professor who has lower scores, and my experience is about the same- low." Student Caty Jolley

**"I honestly feel like [RateMyProfessors.com] has helped me every time I've used it."**

**- Caty Jolley**

has a similar sentiment when talking about ratemyprofessor.com, saying, "It's been extremely helpful. I've been in classes where I love my professor and I hear of students who have the same class but dislike their professors. I honestly feel like the website has helped me every time I've used it" (Jolley).

However, not everyone uses ratemyprofessors.com for simply avoiding low-rated

professors. For instance, Mallory Ericson uses the website for a preparatory reason. "I have had luck with nearly every professor I have found on there," she claims. "It's not that I am necessarily looking for easy teachers, I just like seeing what I should expect from a class and teacher" (Ericson). Along those same lines, some students use ratemyprofessors.com to ensure that they get the teacher that works best for them. Braden Eads says, "I don't use it to get into easy classes, I use it to get an idea of the teacher's teaching style. I'm paying for my education and would like the best I can get. So, I try to align how I learn best with how a teacher teaches" (Eads).

Jennelle Thompson also recognizes that there are different types of students, but she uses that fact to determine which ratings on ratemyprofessors.com to trust. She says, "I make note of warnings, but I give the most weight to comments that seem to be posted by students who might be similar to myself (similar level of effort, grades, attitude toward school, etc)."

Considering similarities is not the only thing to take note of when examining reviews, however, as students have to consider whether reviews and ratings are biased or not. Mallory Ericson says, "Like anything that involves personal opinion, there can

be a wide array of opinions about a teacher. The trick is to disregard the comments that are heavily biased and opinionated.”

Though [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com) isn't a perfect site and doesn't lead to perfect results, students seem to appreciate its positive aspects while recognizing its weaknesses.

## How to Handle a Bad Professor

Unfortunately, despite the wonders that [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com) has provided to students in selecting their teachers, not every tragedy can be avoided. At times only one professor teaches a specific class a student may



need; perhaps the good teachers have full classrooms and won't allow students to add; sometimes, scheduling just doesn't match up in a way that a student can avoid the teachers that may be unwanted.

In reality, it's really not too difficult to deal with a professor that you

don't like, or that has received horrible ratings on [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com). Some find that good old fashioned day dreaming comes in quite handy in the boring teacher's class; but let's face it, that only goes so far before you get bored with yourself - and your test grades may begin to slip. So the next obvious step is to have something else to do. Make no mistake about it though; no matter where you are sitting in the classroom, the teacher knows when you aren't doing what you're supposed to. You may think you're being really sneaky by sitting in the back of the classroom and texting, but you're not. Your teacher is like Sauron: he sees everything.

But, just remember that you don't have to be a teacher's pet in order to get a passing grade, or even to gain useful knowledge

from a course. While your professor does have a great impact on your learning style, having a disagreeable or difficult professor does not make it impossible for you to learn. Sometimes, having a difficult teacher can be a catalyst for the best kind of deep learning.

**I'm paying for my education and would like the best I can get. So, I try to align how I learn best with how a teacher teaches.**

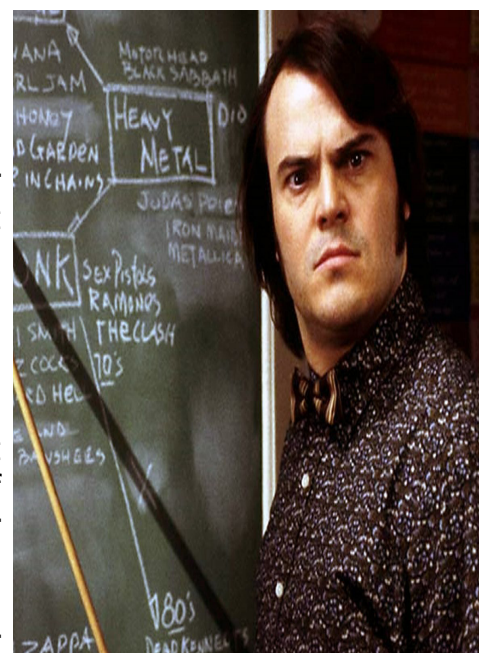
**- Braden Eads**

If you can, try to like your professor. Don't be satisfied in other people's opinions of your class and your teacher. Form your own opinions. And then if you feel like your professor isn't up to snuff, you may implement the following measures:

1. **Buck up.** The semester is only 14 weeks. You can handle dealing with a person for 14 weeks (consider your roommates, for example). Sitting in class isn't going to kill you. So suck it up and do the best you can.

2. **Get to know your professor.**

Sometimes, we see people negatively because we don't understand where they come from and their point of view. Get to know your professor a little bit. Ask her questions and try to understand her opinion (even if you don't agree). Think of your professor as a real person. Who knows, this might make her





more likable. And if you have a better relationship that speaker and listener, you'll have more opportunities to ask questions and begin to see eye-to-eye with your professors.

**Maybe both of you could use some help. Don't give up on your professor, and don't give up on yourself.**

3. **Ask for help.** Sometimes students blame their teachers when they have a hard time in class: as if the professor isn't doing a good enough job. Consider that maybe you are the problem in this teacher-student learning situation. Get a tutor, form a study group, ask your professor for help, if he's willing to give it, but don't give up. Just as your grades are not a reflection on you and your worth

as a human being, a teacher's tests do not reflect his worth as an instructor. Maybe both of you could use some help. Don't give up on your professor, and don't give up on yourself.

And if your professor has a thing for picking on people, you might try to:

4. **Be average.** Don't talk too much, but don't go through the semester without raising your hand to speak. Don't settle for mediocre, but if you and your professor have a rocky relationship, perhaps you might consider not saying things in class to rile him up. Entertaining yourself in class is always tough, perhaps the best advice would be to just do your best, pay attention as well as possible, then keep your head down and push through the semester without making anyone angry - including yourself.

